

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 531
By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION to honor Pat Head Summitt, coach of the 1996
NCAA National Champion Tennessee Lady
Volunteers.

WHEREAS, in thrilling Final Four action Coach Summitt's band of basketball stars defeated the University of Connecticut in what basketball pundits are calling one of the most exciting games in women's basketball history; and

WHEREAS, in the championship game against the University of Georgia, the Lady Vols executed Coach Summitt's game plan to perfection as they bested the highly-ranked Lady 'Dogs in every phase of the game, notching an 83-65 win and capturing the crown jewel of college basketball, the NCAA Women's Basketball Championship; and

WHEREAS, Coach Summitt's fourth Final Four win puts her in elite company, tied with Adolph Rupp of Kentucky and second only to John Wooden of UCLA in national championship victories; and

WHEREAS, Coach Summitt's success in the college coaching fraternity is reflected in her record of 596 wins and 133 losses in 22 years; and her teams' appearance at all 15 NCAA tournaments, and

WHEREAS, Seven of her last 11 teams have advanced to the Final Four, with the 1987, 1989 and 1991 teams also winning national championships; and

WHEREAS, Coach Summitt's international record now stands at an incredible 63-4, including her team's winning the gold medal at the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, throughout the season Coach Summitt enlisted the support of her highly capable assistant coaches, including Mickie DeMoss, Holly Warlick and Al Brown, who all played an integral role in the team's success; and

WHEREAS, Coach Summitt's indoctrination into the game began as a child growing up in Henrietta. The daughter of Richard and Hazel Head, she developed a competitive spirit and zest for the game at a young age, first at Cheatham County High School and then as a stalwart member of the UT-Martin Women's team, where she led the Lady Pacers to a 64-29 record over four years. She was co-captain of the 1976 U.S. Olympic team that won a silver medal in Montreal; and

WHEREAS, no other coach in the country, male or female, has enjoyed the success of Pat Summitt; and in recognition of her unparalleled coaching success, Coach Summitt has received numerous honors and accolades, including the 1990 John Bunn Award, the most prestigious award given by the Basketball Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Coach Summitt's coaching skill has produced eight U.S. basketball Olympians, 15 Kodak All-Americans and over 36 international performers; and

WHEREAS, a three-time winner of the Naismith College Coach of the Year and two-time WBCA/Converse Coach of the Year, she is just "Pat" to her players and fans nationwide; and

WHEREAS, a celebrated figure in women's athletics, Pat Summitt has contributed her time and considerable talents as vice-president of USA Basketball, as an Olympic representative on the Advisory committee to USA Basketball, as a member of the board of trustees of the Basketball Hall of Fame, and as a member of the board of directors for the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, her many honors and accolades aside, Pat Summitt balances her professional life with the love she shares with her husband, R. B. Summitt, their son, Tyler, and the rest of her family, including our very own Representative Tommy Head; and

WHEREAS, perhaps the most fitting tribute to this coaching giant is the number of former assistant coaches and players who are now head coaches themselves, both at the college and high school levels; and

WHEREAS, her coaching record and the concern she exhibits for her players stand as a testament to her superior abilities. The program and its players, past and present, are the embodiment of success in intercollegiate athletics and in life with every player who has ever played for the Lady Vols graduating from college and being enriched from having known and being coached by Coach Summitt; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor Coach Pat Head Summitt on winning her fourth NCAA Women's Basketball Championship, extending to her our best wishes for much continued success in her coaching endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we salute Pat Summitt for her outstanding work as a goodwill ambassador for every level of women's basketball and as a role model for all Tennesseans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copies.